

Legion News

The Official Publication of the American Legion Department of North Carolina



March - April 2011

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HAPPENINGS

Department Spring Fundraising Program

We are asking for all of you to support your Department 2011 Address Labels Fundraiser Program. Your Department needs your participation and donation. We certainly understand the state of the economy and we do want you to know that we appreciate your donation and your sacrifice.

We also want you to know that we appreciate your service to our Country and thank you for being a member of The American Legion. Later, when and if you need more labels, just call the toll free number 1(800)433-3318. Thank you for your membership and for your support.



Pictured left to right, Charles Robinson, District 19 Oratorical Chairman, contest winner Eric Marcy and District 19 Commander Homer Robertson.

District 19 Holds Oratorical Contest

District 19 held their Oratorical contest on Saturday, January 22, 2011 at American Legion Post 327 in Faith. By winning the District contest, Marcy qualified to compete in the Division IV Oratorical Contest held Saturday, February 12 at Post 342 in Salisbury.



Murphy Post 96 Holds Oratorical Contest

American Legion Post 96 in Murphy, NC held their first American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship contest. The two outstanding contestants were Kenneth Hill, winner, a Sr. at Murphy High school and Destiny Rogers, a Jr. in the NC Home School system. Larry White, District 25 Commander, was present to oversee the proceedings. Post 96 Commander Jack Lang, presented awards to the contestants and the five judges. Plans are already underway for next year's contest.

Eagle Scout Recognition

You can receive a certificate and a letter from the National Commander, which your post can present to the new Eagle Scout on the date of his Court of Honor. Please send the full name of the recipient, Troop number, date of Court of Honor and name and address where to be mailed.

Please send request to cjones@legion.org. Request should be made 30-45 days prior to the event. This is a golden opportunity to show our scouting community that we (The American Legion) are the 2nd largest supporter of Scouting in the Nation. Effort well taken and Time well spent.

State Commander Visits Calabash

Ben Lee, Past Commander of Calabash American Legion Post 503, introduced Department Commander Bill Oxford at a recent monthly meeting of the post. Oxford thanked the members for having him at the meeting and he congratulated Post Commander Bob Veech for having one of the best posts in the state. He also reminded the members that their own Past Commander Ben Lee is running for the position of Department Commander this year. Pictured, left to right, Post Commander Bob Veech, Commander Oxford and Past Post Commander Ben Lee.



www.nclegion.org



The North Carolina Legion News
PO Box 26657
Raleigh, NC 27611-6657



**ADJUTANT'S
CALL**

FRANK STANCIL
Department Adjutant



**Thank You,
Legionnaires!**

Thank you from a grateful State and Nation for your participation, involvement, support, time, efforts and energy in continuing the heritage of The American Legion. For your Membership, Support of the Department Sweepstakes project; Support of the Department Address Label project, Your visits to the VA Hospitals and Veterans Nursing homes, Your support of our Youth Programs: Baseball, Boys State, High School Oratorical Contest, Boy Scouts, Student Trooper Program, Colon Furr Nursing Scholarship, ROTC & JROTC metals, Flag Education in schools, Jr Shooting Sports Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund; Support of the USO, Ronald McDonald House PULL TAB program; Fisher Houses; Legislation that affects veterans; Special programs for Special Children; Volunteer with soup kitchens; Helping to transport veterans to nearest VA Hospitals; Providing proper ceremonies for the retirement of our Nations' Flag; With assisting veterans with getting their much deserved benefits; Supporting the deployed Troops and their families; Supporting the returning Troops and their families; Working on local community projects and fund raisers; For your gifts to the Child Welfare Foundation, The National Emergency Fund, and the Veterans Service Fund; For your attendance at Post, District, Division and Department meetings, conferences and conventions to do the business of The American Legion Department of North Carolina.; For serving your Country with no matter when you served, where you served, how long you served, or which branch of the military you were in, your sacrifice matters. Only around 2% of Americans serve in the Military so this makes you one of the elite. Thank you for still living by the code: DUTY HONOR COUNTRY

**CHAPLAIN'S
CORNER**

GAREY GULLEDGE
Department Chaplain



Obedience

Sometimes we struggle with obedience. Doing as we have been instructed to do is difficult at times. A TV news camera crew was on assignment in southern Florida filming the widespread destruction of Hurricane Andrew.

In one scene, amid the devastation and debris stood one house on its foundation. The owner was cleaning up the yard when a reporter approached him.

"Sir, why is your house the only one still standing?" asked the reporter. "How did you manage to escape the

See Chaplain, Page 8

**Spring Brings
New Projects**

Finally, I think we can see Spring on the horizon. We have faced "Old Man Winter" and the snow, sleet, and freezing rain associated with it. I know from personal experience that slick roads, cold weather and dreary days are not exactly the conditions that support American Legion projects, programs, and meetings. We are at a point that we need to refocus our efforts and re-energize our plans and efforts to pursue Legion projects.

At the Fall Conference we selected the winners of several American Legions awards, and at the Mid-Winter Conference coming up on Feb 18/19 we will pick several more. These awards are all valuable and we need to continue to put our time, effort, and support into them, but they

The Pillar

As I write this month's news article, we prepare for our annual trip to Washington to meet with our Representatives and Senators seeking assistance on legislative bills that are of great interest to all Veterans and Americans. We will seek additional funds for our military, an enhanced GI Bill, reimbursements to Veterans and additional funding for rehabilitation, and several other bills that are of great interest to our members. For the last 20 years, I have always looked forward to this trip to speak with our leaders of Congress, but also to speak with the leaders of our great organization.

One person who I will greatly miss is the "Fifth Pillar" of the American Legion, Past National Commander John H. Geiger who

VA Benefits

Volunteers are requested to receive training, be accredited and provide veterans services on behalf of The American Legion in the Durham VA Medical Center. If you have interest in serving fellow veterans please contact me.

Here are some of the updates concerning your VA benefits and entitlements. Thank you for your service and sacrifice to this great nation. For God and Country!

The current VA regional office focus areas include:

1) working "Nehmer" cases for ischemic heart disease and other issues presumptive for Agent Orange exposure

2) cutting down the inventory or year old claims in the VA Regional Office

3) working to diminish the large number of Quickstart (filed while still on active duty) claims on station in Winston Salem

Annual Eligibility Verification Reports

By law VA is required to verify

**COMMANDER'S
COMMENTS**

BILL OXFORD
Department Commander



all have something in common.

These winners are all possible, because a Legionnaire somewhere felt strongly enough about another person's efforts and contributions to do the paperwork, create a packet, and submit the paperwork to nominate that person for one of our awards. As we look across North Carolina, in every town, big or small there is a Policeman, Fireman, Deputy Sheriff, EMT, Outstanding Post Commander, Super Post Adjutant, active Boy Scout leader, supportive Newspaper, or a business who employs veterans that need to be recognized for their efforts.

We all know them, and we can see their value and recognize their

contributions. But, somebody has to take the initiative to DO THE PAPERWORK, and submit a packet to identify and recognize them, locally, and perhaps at the Department level. Pick a Committee Chairman, select a nominee, and do the packet. It is really a rewarding experience. Those programs are valuable, but we need to remember that Membership is the most important thing we do.

We have reached every Membership Goal so far, the last 85% by February 8, but we all know our hardest goals are still ahead. There are still many members who have not been contacted about their renewals. That is the best place to look for members, but we cannot wait for them to renew, we need to ask. But there are other tools to use. The "No Legionnaire Left Behind" list is another great tool.

We also need to consider the Auxiliary, The SAL, and Legion Riders

See Commander, Page 8

**THE JUDGE
SPEAKS**

GAITHER KEENER JR.
Department Service Officer



passed away on January the 10th at his home in Illinois at the age of 85. John was a friend and a great American. He was a member of Post 135 in Chicago and a member of our great organization for 66 years. A retired architectural engineer, John was a World War II Army Veteran, serving in the 11th Armored Division and was wounded in the Battle of the Bulge.

I meet John when Jerry Hedrick appointed me to The National Finance Committee where I then learned the meaning of the Fifth Pillar. He had

See Judge, Page 8

**LET'S TALK
REHAB**

CAJUN COMEAU
Department Service Officer



the self-reported gross household income (veteran, spouse and dependents, if any) of certain nonservice-connected or noncompensable 0% service-connected veterans to confirm the accuracy of their

- Eligibility for VA health care
- Copay status, and
- Enrollment Priority Group assignment.

VA verifies veterans' gross household income (spouse and dependents, if any) provided by the veteran on the financial assessment (means test). This financial information is verified by matching financial records maintained by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and the Social Security Administration (SSA). If the result of the income match reveals that the veteran's gross household income is higher than the established VA Na-

See Public Relations, Page 8

**MEMBERSHIP
REPORT**

JAMES MOORE
Membership Chairman



**Getting Back to
the Beginning**

The past several months we have been able to meet all of the National Goals that is because you have been aggressive getting out and meeting new veterans letting them know that the American Legion is a great organization that's here to help veterans and their family.

Now we need to keep these veterans in your post by keeping them informed of the activities being conducted in the post and the programs the state in running, we need to make these members feel at home by getting them involved and finding out what they enjoy doing such as joining a committee are starting a new program to help the post. Remember we were all new at one time and didn't know everything about the American Legion.

Remember that we still have

See Membership, Page 8

**The North Carolina
Legion News**

Bill Oxford
DEPARTMENT COMMANDER

W. Frank Stancil
DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT

Articles may be submitted for consideration to be published in The North Carolina Legion News, PO Box 26657, Raleigh NC 27611-6657.

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Legion Riders Start New Chapter in Tarboro

On January 8, 2011 American Legion Eason-Tiney Post 19 Department of NC opened a new chapter in their history book. 12 Motorcycle Riders formed an American Legion Riders Chapter at Post 19. The newly formed Chapter comprised of members of The American Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary, and The Sons of the American Legion, draws from various Posts in Edgecombe, Nash, and Wilson Counties.

American Legion Riders Post 19 NC elected their Officers at this inaugural meeting.

John Vaudo of Post 19 Tarboro was elected to be the Rider Director, Gary Brown of Post 58 Rocky Mount was elected Assistant Director. The other Officers are Shannon Pierce Post 58 - Adjutant, Ed Costel-

lo Post 13 Wilson, Treasurer, Calvin Turner SAL Squadron 13, Sergeant at Arms, and George Young Post 19, Chaplain/Ride Captain. They have a long road ahead of them in their efforts to make this a successful chapter of the ALR but feel they are up to the challenge.

The chapter will be holding their Meetings on the 1st Saturday of each month at the current Post home in the Edgecombe County Veterans Museum at 106 W Church Street, Tarboro, but have made mention of also periodically moving the meeting to other posts in the Tri-County area in hopes of generating increased interest and awareness of The Legion Family and it's programs.



Pictured are left to right, Mr Johnson, Eagle Scout Dakota Johnson and Mrs. Johnson, mother and Scoutmaster of Troop 101, Alexander, NC.

Dakota Johnson Earns Rank of Eagle Scout

American Legion Post 2 of Asheville presented a special Eagle Scout certificate to Eagle Scout Dakota Johnson. This was

the 36th certificate presented to Eagle Scouts in western North Carolina over the past 4 years by Post 2.



High Point Boy Scout Troop 1 Eagle Scout Candidate Austin Fields Conducts Eagle Scout Project

I T Mann Post 87 Gets a New Look

By Mike Moser,
Post 87 Historian

Surrounded by family, friends, and project supporters Austin Fields works towards the completion of his Eagle Scout project this past Saturday October 30, 2010 on the grounds of The American Legion, I T Mann Post 87 located at 409 West High Ave. in High Point, NC. Austin selected a landscaping task as his project. The landscaping includes preparing and planting several flower beds in front of the Post Hall, around the main flag pole, and down an embankment at the street front. The beds were planted with red, white, and blue Pansies surrounded with mulch. The street front embankment was outlined with landscape timbers and filled with mulch. White rocks were added and shaped into the letters I. T. Mann Post 87.

Preparation for the project included planning, soliciting donations, coordinating transportation and supervising the work involved with this endeavor. First, Austin had to obtain permission from The American Legion Post 87 to do the work on their site. This was no problem for Austin as his grandfather, Richard Stevenson, is a member of Post 87. Next, Austin sought out and obtained donations of materials for the project. Donors included Crossroad Restaurant, Albert Roofing Company, Price Nursery, The Marine Corp League, The American Legion Auxiliary, Sons of the American Legion, Lowes Home Improvements, Mr. Kaney Joyner, Mr. Jamie Brown, and The American Legion Post 87. Finally, Austin selected a date for conducting the project. During the project Austin demonstrated a well thought out methodology to direct the work by his supporters at the site.

In attendance of the event were High Point Boy Scout Troop 1 Leader, Marty Purser; Austin's parents and step parents, Scotty and Jennifer Newson, Terry Fields, Brooke Fields, and Mr. Marvin Thomas, friend of the family



From left to right: Sam Maise, Commander Knightdale Post 529 and District 11 Commander Terry F. Chatfield

Knightdale Post 529 Becomes Lewis Meyer King Post 529

December 21, 2010. At the regular Post meeting District 11 Commander Chatfield presented Knightdale Post Commander Maise with the permanent charter for Knightdale Post 529. With the presentation of

the permanent charter Knightdale Post 529 now becomes the Lewis Meyer King Post 529. Also at this meeting District Commander presented the Cardinal Award Certificate to Post 529.



Pictured left to right; Patricia Harris, Post 124 1st Vice Commander, Bill McClung, Elizabeth McClung, Sam McClung, Mike Sayers, Post 124 Commander

Eagle Scout Sam McClung

On January 18, 2011, Sam McClung received his Eagle Scout Rank. Apex American Legion Post 124 was on hand to present him with the National Commander Cer-

tificate and the American Legion Gold Citizenship Metal. Sam's Eagle Scout project was the construction of a new ramp for the Apex Chamber of Commerce.



Christmas in Calabash

Under Joe Roundy's leadership, the Calabash American Legion Posts 503, with the help of Lauren Halberstadt, school counselor at Jesse Mae Monroe Elementary School, was able to collect food for needy families for the Christmas holiday. The baskets consisted of turkey, fruit, vegetables, bread and milk, which would help families for more than a week. Principal Cupolo thanked Roundy, Commander Bob Veach and other Legion members for all their help during the Christmas holiday season. Shown from left are Steve Giroud, Cupolo, Ray Van Ardsale, Halberstadt, Donny Scaggs, Roundy, Kenny Anderson and Veach



Pictured left to right, Robert Ferrell, Joe Panetta, Ginny Panetta, Reggie Horton and Mary Stanfield, Director of the Christian Help Center.

Roxboro Post 138 Delivers Food For Needy

On December 23, 2010, members of American Legion Post 138 in Roxboro and Auxiliary Unit

138, delivered canned food and other non-perishable items to the Christian Help Center in Roxboro.



American Legion Post 232 News

American Legion Baseball has been familiar to the people of Garner for many years. Every Post 232 team has helped the image of Garner as caring for its youth. The Post 232 Athletic Officer has been an outstanding contributor to the success of American Legion Base-

ball. At the January 20, 2011 Post meeting, Terry L. Chatfield, Post Commander, presented Ross L. Whitfield with a plaque recognizing his 20 years as Post Athletic Officer. Ross is a 22 year member of Post 232.



Pictured L-R: Mrs. Scarlett Cape, Trooper Cape, Sgt. V. E. Burton and Sgt. B. Johnson.

Swift Creek Post 530 Honors Law Officer and Fire Fighter

Swift Creek Post 530 honored a law officer and a firefighter at the membership meeting on 10 February 2011. Trooper M. D. Cape of the N. C. State Highway Patrol

was selected as the Law Officer of the Year. Brandyn Lewis of the Swift Creek Fire Department was the recipient of the Firefighter of the Year Award.



Pictured L-R: Cubmaster Carl E. Sommer and Post 530 Chaplain Virgil Jones.

Swift Creek Post 530 Sponsors the Boy Scouts

Several members of Swift Creek Post 530 recently attended a scout meeting and presented an annual check in support of Cub Scout Pack

222. At the end of this year, the Cub Pack will graduate a large number of Webelos and plans to start Boy Scout Troop 222.



Former Post 23 Standout Named One of Best Players in Illinois Baseball League

February 02, 2011, Gastonia Gazette
By Richard Walker

GASTONIA – Willie Gillispie first earned local sports fame for breaking the color line for American Legion baseball in this state with teammate Elmore Hill for Gastonia Post 23 in 1964 and again for football players at old Dallas High in 1965.

Gillispie is still getting honors. Last summer, Gillispie was named the sixth-best player in the 75-year history of the Eastern League.

After his college baseball and football career at Raleigh's Shaw University in the late 1960s, Gillispie played four seasons in the independent league for two teams – Champaign Eagles and Rantoul Merchants – and was its leading hitter three times and top home run hitter twice.

“For them to consider me the sixth-best player in that league af-

ter playing only four years means a lot,” Gillispie said of author Fred Kroner’s book titled ‘Catching Up: The official history of the Eastern Illinois baseball league.’

A lifelong baseball fan, Gillispie says he thoroughly enjoyed his time playing in the league, which came while he was stationed in the Champaign, Ill., Air Force Base during his 10-year tenure with the Air National Guard.

Gillispie hit .509 in his rookie season in the league of 1969 for Champaign, becoming the first to surpass .500 in the league in five years. Later, when playing for Rantoul, Gillispie led the league in homers and average in both 1971 and 1972. He hit .500 with four homers in 1971 and .436 with seven homers in 1972. The solid seasons also helped Rantoul win regular-season titles both years and the postseason tournament title

in 1971.

Gillispie first heard the book was being done when Kroner, a sports reporter for The Champaign, Ill., News-Gazette, contacted him a couple of years ago.

“He wanted to know whatever stats or information I may have had from my playing days since they had lost some of the information over the years,” said Gillispie, who has spent the last 18 years working for the Veterans Administration hospital in Salisbury.

Gillispie did more than just play baseball in Illinois; He met his wife, the former Edna Thorpe, in Champaign.

In the years since – and after moving back to the area – Gillispie played and/or coached for semipro baseball teams in Charlotte, Clover, S.C., Gastonia, Kings Mountain and Winston-Salem.

During that time, he coached and played alongside his sons Lovell and Travis. Lovell Gillispie played at Ashbrook and Travis Gillispie played at Huss and at Wingate.

And Willie Gillispie is still active with baseball, running the www.gillispiesportstraining.com teaching website with his son (and company president) Travis.

“I have enjoyed baseball as a player, a coach and a fan,” Gillispie said. “But I think I enjoy teaching the game most. That’s why I’m still involved with it with my son.

“I know the sport has changed so much over the years, but I still love it, enjoy watching it and enjoy teaching it. The main thing with me is the fundamentals and I love teaching them, especially to younger players.”

Jerry Mangum

District 11
Commander
Candidate



Proudly
Endorsed by
Post 518

- Retired
Master Sergeant (Army), 28 years Veteran
- Associate Degree in General Studies, University of Phoenix, 2007.
- Bachelors Degree in Business Administration upon graduation, May 2011, Mount Olive College
- Post First Vice Commander 2007-2009
- Post Commander 2010- Present
- District Vice Commander 2010-Present
- Life Time Member, Disabled American Veterans - Chapter 44
- Member, Johnston County Veteran’s Advisory Board 2009-Present
- Vice President, Johnston County Veteran’s Council 2010-Present

The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation

The foundation has an incentive program for the award year of 2010-11. Each post donating at least one (1) dollar for each member of their post will receive a beautiful banner/streamer. The banner/streamer is suitable for display in your meeting room or it may be attached to your organizational colors. Thank you very much for your support of this very important program.

Walstonburg American Legion Post 332

Will host the 3rd annual
“Proud to be an American Day”
Saturday April, 16 2011

Last year with the USAF fly over, was huge success, this year will be even bigger.

We would like to invite all our posts to join us this year in Honoring our veterans and military. Each veteran and active military person present will be introduced one by one through a flag of honor.

Vendor booths with food, arts and crafts antique cars, military vehicles and music entertainment will go on all day from 9am until...

The main event will start at 11am starting with

- Welcome of special guest
- Present colors
- National anthem
- Opening prayer
- Requested another fly over
- Speakers: include US Congressman, State Senator, Marine officer from Camp Lejeune (Wounded Warriors) retired veterans.
- Pow/Mia ceremony
- Honoring our deceased members and our fallen
- Playing of TAPS
- Introducing our veterans and military
- Closing

All military branches of service will be invited.

All veterans and military need to register before 11am

For more information contact Ray Holloman @ 252-714-3954 or e-mail rayholloman@embarqmail.com

As of: February 21, 2011

Division	% of Goal	Place	District	% of Goal
III	89.75	1	11	94.06
V	88.15	2	22	92.57
II	88.11	3	3	91.60
IV	87.45	4	15	90.40
I	86.90	5	18	89.43
		6	17	89.37
		7	21	89.33
		8	7	88.95
		9	10	88.56
		10	9	88.38
		11	5	88.11
		12	16	87.66
		13	2	87.64
		14	13	87.54
		15	6	87.54
		16	8	87.24
		17	23	86.65
		18	1	86.59
		19	12	86.22
		20	25	85.67
		21	19	85.65
		22	20	85.33
		23	14	84.72
		24	4	83.58
		25	24	82.45

2011
MEMBERSHIP REPORT
March 8, 2011
90% Target
PUFLS INCLUDED

Current Percentages:
Headquarters Post #1981 – **94.03%**
Traditional Posts – **88.19%**
Department of North Carolina – **88.39%**

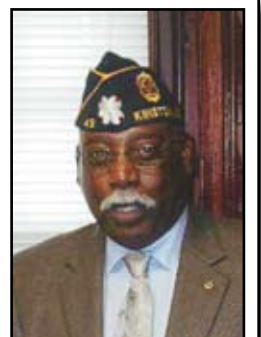
2011
VETERANS SERVICE FUND

\$20,0623.50 - Goal
Department Total – **\$18,708.38**
Department Percentage – **90.71**

Education Program

The National Committee on Education is requesting to identify those American Legion members to receive a Certificate Of Appreciation from The American Legion’s National Committee on Education. This certificate is to reward their efforts in promoting the Education Program of The American Legion. Not more than three (3) members from each Department are eligible to be nominated each year. All nominations must be received in Indianapolis by April 15, 2011. Please contact your Department Headquarters for assistance.

James D Moore, Jr.
District 7
Commander
Candidate



Military Service
USAF, Active, Reserves and National, 9 ½ years, E-5
NJ Army National Guard, State Active Duty (AGR System) 18 plus years, E-7

Post Experience
17 year Member
Post Commander

District Experience
District 7 Vice Commander, 2 year
Division II Commander, 1 year

Department Experience
Americanism Commission
Drug & Alcohol Committee
Membership Chairman

National Experience
National Legion College

Organizations
Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 892
National Box Car Association 40&8 Voiture 1538
DAV Chapter 45
Military Retirees, Seymour Johns AFB



Members present were Otis Dagner, front, and back, James Morris, Leslie Horne, and James Lucas. Also assisting but not pictured was James White Jr.

Post 173 Helps Fight Hunger

American Legion Post 173 of Rocky Mount, NC is "fighting hunger" by delivering weekend food to children who depend on their only meals while they are

at school to have meals while at home during the weekend also.

Food was donated and dropped off at the pick up station for the "Backpack Buddies".



Auction purchase turns into \$500 donation!

Recently, Bob Newkirk, Past Commander of Mount Gilead American Legion Post 92, went to an auction in Albemarle, NC to hopefully find a bargain. His \$5.00 bid on an American Legion Uniform was the only bid. Newkirk's attraction to the uniform was, it was old, and in 25 years of active membership in The American Legion, he had never seen anyone in such a uniform. Also, he thought it would make a nice conversation piece in the post home. At home, casually going through the pockets of "his bargain", he found a small manila envelope containing \$980.00 in cash! At the Post 92 Thanksgiving Supper, Newkirk presented a check to Post 92 for \$500.00!

Past Commander Newkirk is a loyal and active member of post 92 and is well aware that his generous donation will be used wisely to support American Legion programs and helping veterans in need.

In addition, NC Post 9 was shown on the cap, and Newkirk contacted the Commander of Post 9 in Charlotte, relating his story, and sent the cap to them.



Welcome Home Troops

25th District Vice Commander, George Leduc, George Lee American Legion Auxiliary Post 532, President Marie Leduc, George Lee American Legion Post 532 member Bob Bond and George Lee American Legion Post 532, Vice Commander Phil Cantley got up real early on Sunday, February 13, to drive to the Asheville Airport...

Our TROOPS were coming home! The 105th Battalion MP Mountain Pistols came home from Iraq this morning with cheers from the crowd. An emotional "WELCOME HOME" for about 350 soldiers and a million tears!



Post 132 Elect New Officers

American Legion Post 132 in Smithfield installed officers at a recent meeting. Pictured left to right, Finance Officer Braxton Langdon, Adjutant Carol Jackson Chaplain Billy Wiggs, Vice Commander Gregory Chavez, Commander Norman Grantham, Historian Harvey Evans, and Past District 11 Commander Jerry Tart.



Celebrating Americanism

As February is Americanism Month, Auxiliary Units across North Carolina are paying special tribute to our Flag, our Freedom, and our Armed Forces: three indivisible forces comprising the life-blood of the United States of America.

Our Flag, the symbol of the 'Republic for which she stands'.

Our Freedom, God given to every American.

Our Military, who fought to free our young nation as we declared our independence through continuous wars, sacrificing their very lives, to keep our Flag flying and our Freedom intact.

We are "Getting Back to Basics" in the Auxiliary---supporting The American Legion by serving our Veterans. Units are

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

WANDA MOORE
Department President



celebrating Hospitalized Veterans Week [Feb 13-18] with entertainment, luncheons, gifts, and Valentine parties at the four VA Hospitals. They are remembering veterans [disabled, wounded warriors, and homeless] in their communities with gifts of service.

We are supporting our active duty military [National Guard, and Reservists] at deployments and homecomings; sending care packages; volunteering at meetings and parties for the families left behind; military kids reading programs; and buying and folding Pocket Flags.

Units are also recognizing local JR ROTC's with certificates of appreciation and involving them in Unit Flag ceremonies.

Members are honoring Patriotic Holidays: President [and General] George Washington and President Abraham Lincoln.

Mid Winter Conference at the North Raleigh Hilton will be a rousing success, with Special Guest- National President Carlene, some really great surprises, lots of decision making to attend [new District and Division Presidents to elect], and valuable information from Chairman. There will be a reception for President Carlene Friday and Saturday Luncheon, hosted by Benson 109.

And then there is the matter of Membership! I predict there is going to be a giant leap in membership at Mid Winter! I believe our Units are going to bring renewals in, in record numbers.

Oh my! Wait to you see the 'famous' entertainers at the Friday night party.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

RACHEL ERVIN
Aux. Department Chaplain



A Look at What's to Come

February American Legion
Auxiliary Article
February 1, 2011

Valentine's Day is just around the corner. Love is in the air. Don't forget the candy, gifts, phone calls, or cards to send to the special people in your lives. Put veterans and their families, shut-ins, the sick, and those in rest homes on your list of folks to be remembered. Most of all, remember that God is love. He expects us to do good works in His name. He always knows what's in our hearts.

If your finances are stretched in these tough financial times and purchased gifts are not an option, make a list of your loved ones and friends. Set aside quiet time to pray in earnest for those on your list. Prayer is the best gift you can give.

Well, we've survived winter's frost so far. Maybe the worst is over. When we see how so much of our country is covered in ice and snow, we can consider ourselves lucky. No matter what the weather brings, God can keep us warm and toasty in our hearts. It is important that we know that He is always in control.

I'm looking forward to Mid-Winter Conference and hope to see all of you there. I'm anxious to hear about the many programs and projects our units have been involved in since Fall Conference. I pray that all our units have been a blessing to their communities. God has given each and every one of us a talent and he wants us to be fruitful.

I've received many calls, e-mails and letters requesting prayer for lost loved ones, the sick and special needs. As Chaplain I welcome the opportunity to lift these needs up to God in prayer. Please keep them coming. We all know that God hears our prayers. Feel free to contact me at ervinmanor@suddenlink.net or call me at 252-459-5488.

Got GAS? 'Goal Ambulance Service

While we focus on our daily routines we must not forget that thousands serve our nation in faraway places, often in grave danger, all in defense of our principles and our national interests. Keep them and their families in your thoughts and prayers and do whatever you can, no matter how insignificant it may seem, for they are enduring great hardship and stress on our behalf.

We exceeded our mid-winter "Vital Sign" goal of 75% reaching a plateau of over 86%, all due to your dedication. Medical Direction (a.k.a. the Membership Committee) applauds

MEMBERSHIP

SUE GOOCH
Membership Chairman



your support. Now is not the time to rest on our laurels, but to strive to be the best we can be, working in hopes of each unit reaching its goal. Other states have noticed our results and are inspired to make a real race of it; the winner will ultimately be the veterans, past and present, who benefit from the services we provide for them and their families.

It was nice seeing so many of you at Mid-Winter Conference. Knowing that so many women are united in such a noble cause warms our hearts

and gives hope for unprecedented success.

Those who were unable to attend were missed and we look forward to seeing you at future meetings and encourage you to bring a newcomer to share in our celebration.

Our ambulances are rolling, answering calls and saving lives for the ALA. We are holding our own in the top ten nationally, and still contest for leadership in the Southern Division. Lots of ambulances have reached their goals, but continue to put the "pedal to the metal" in hopes of helping their district and/or division reach their own goals. That's teamwork of the highest order.

Congratulations and keep up the good work.

Membership Goal Units As of 2-16-11

Cherryville	#100	Snow Hill	#536	Scotland Neck	#034	High Point	#087
Hamilton	#131	Whiteville	#233	Henderson	#176	Reidsville	#199
Roanoke Rapids	#038	Wake Forest	#187	Trenton	#154	Lexington	#255
Swansboro	#078	Durham	#007	Jacksonville	#265	Aberdeen	#072
Four Oaks	#346	Unionville	#535	Snow Hill	#094	Monroe	#027
Liberty	#081	Salisbury	#107	Kinston	#219	Waxhaw	#208
Albemarle	#520	Hudson	#392	Hampstead	#167	King	#290
Granite Quarry	#448	Belmont	#180	Benson	#109	Lewisville	#522
Huntersville	#321	Marshall	#317	Fuquay Varina	#116	Mooresville	#066
Spring Lake	#230	Hayesville	#532	Smithfield	#232	Landis	#146
Lenoir	#029	Franklinton	#052	Garner	#232	Troutman	#401
Fayetteville	#032	Carolina Beach	#129	Pine Level	#405	Gastonia	#023
Greenville	#039	Calabash	#503	Clayton	#518	Stanley	#266
Newport	#203	Carthage	#012	Burlington	#063	Asheville	#002
Goldsboro	#011	Hertford	#126	Reidsville	#079	Franklin	#108



Commander

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as membership tools because they are all places to find and recruit Legion Members. The year has been a busy one so far, even though December and January were not as active, but as I look back there are several special memories.

The first is the Law Enforcement Banquet in Edenton hosted by Post 40. WOW. The program, the list of guest, other attendees, the atmosphere, the awards: ALL outstanding.

ing. Commander Ron, Adjutant E.C. Great work. The second special memory is a combination of events. Part of the Department Commanders responsibilities is completing a review of VA Medical Centers, and as I started my tours of the four North Carolina VA hospitals I really did not know what to expect. I am a Viet Nam era, Category 8 veteran, and, as such had not been exposed to VA medical care.

I had heard unpleasant stories

and had also heard stories about the quality of care. But as we toured the hospitals, met the Directors, interviewed staff, and discussed the direction of veteran's medical care I think the VA medical system is doing an outstanding job. Is it perfect, probably not, but it is working well and the people involved are dedicated to providing the care Americas veterans need.

A few months left; If your POST, your DISTRICT, your DIVI-

SION, your DEPARTMENT has not reached their membership goals please re-new your efforts to reach out to every veterans and help us offer American Legion membership to them. North Carolina has almost 800,000 eligible veterans and we have almost 42,000 of them as Legion members. There is a tremendous pool out there. Please help us reach our Goal. Thanks for all you do in support of America's Veterans.

Judge

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great knowledge of our program, respect for all, and command and control when needed, but always a respectful person seeking counsel from others. John was a mentor; just ask Jerry or anyone who knew him. He mentored me on several matters

to understand the true concepts of this great organization.

Longtime National Adjutant and Past National Commander Bob Spanogle commented that John was a great American, there was no generation gap between John and the Vietnam Vet, and he supported us and welcomed us into the brotherhood of

the Legion.

John's love of our Country, his family, his dedication and commitment to our American Legion will be greatly missed. But I shall miss seeing him, talking with him, asking his counsel, his mentorship, his integrity and his great smile. I know I will not be the only one missing him, as

his longtime Legion friends Past National Commander Comer and New York Department Adjutant Richard Pedro must feel a great loss because if you saw John, you always saw Jake and Pedro.

John, rest well, your work has been done and your legacy is sound... you have taught us well.

Chaplain

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severe damage of the hurricane?"

"I built this house myself," the man replied. "I also built it according Florida state building code. When

the code called for 2x6 roof trusses, I used 2x6 roof trusses. I was told that a house built according to code could withstand a hurricane. I did, and it did.

I suppose no one else around here

followed the code."

When the sun is shining and the skies are blue, building our lives on something other than the guidelines in Gods word can be tempting. But there's only one way to be ready for

a storm.

Proverbs 19:16 say, He who obeys instructions guards his life, but he who is contemptuous of his ways will die.

God Bless Is My Prayer For You.

Public Relations

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tional Income Thresholds, the veteran will be contacted via mail to help resolve the income discrepancy. These contacts from VA give the veteran and spouse the opportunity to dispute income as reported by IRS and SSA and/or reduce the total gross household income by providing proof of allowable deductible expenses. Should you receive the annual EVR please ensure you fill it out and return it to the VA in a timely manner. Inability to do so may result in a stoppage of VA payments.

Medical Expense Reports for VA Pension Recipients

The medical expense report can be filed by persons in receipt of pension. Please ensure that you retain proof of ALL out of pocket, unreimbursed medical expenses during the calendar year. Take these records to your local County Veteran Service Officer for instructions and assistance on filing for reimbursement of expenses.

Family medical expenses actually paid by you may be deductible from your income. Report the actual amount of unreimbursed medical expenses you paid for yourself or relatives who are members of your household.

Do not report any expenses you did not pay or expenses for which you were or will be reimbursed. Any expenses reasonably related to medical or dental care may be allowed as medical expenses. Examples of allowable medical expenses include the following: hospital expenses,

office visits, drugs and medicines, eyeglasses, dental fees, medical insurance premiums (including the Medicare deduction), hearing aids, nursing home fees, home health services, and transportation for medical purposes (28.5 cents per mile, plus parking and tolls or fares for taxis, buses, etc.). If you are not sure whether a particular expense can be allowed, furnish a complete description of the purpose of the payment. We will let you know if an expense cannot be allowed. If more space is needed, attach a separate sheet of paper with columns corresponding to those on this form. Be sure to write your VA file number on any attachments.

You may be asked to verify the amounts you actually paid, so keep all receipts or other documentation of payments for at least 3 years after we make a decision on your medical expense claim. If you are unable to provide documentation of payments for at least 3 years after we make a decision of your medical expense claim. If you are unable to provide documentation of the claimed medical expenses when asked to do so by VA, your benefits will be retroactively reduced or terminated.

Upcoming Events in NC

Recruit Military Veteran Opportunity Expo, Thursday, March 10, 2011 - 11AM to 3PM, Carter-Finley Stadium, Vaughn Towers (Home of the N.C. State Wolfpack) 4600 Trinity Road - Raleigh, NC 27607.

Membership

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members that have not paid their membership duties for year 2011 ,we need to contact them by telephone call, letter and stop by the see them there could be a problem why the dues has not been paid. We have to show them that the American Legion cares about their well being. If the Adjutant is having a problem getting in touch with the members, the post should organize a team to help the adjutant get their members home ad-

dress.

Now we are heading for the finish line which means that we must continue to find the veterans that want to join the American Legion. We have been blessed with the knowledge obtained during the past few months by going face to face. People are constantly talking about the future, The future is not promised if we continue with what we are doing we will meet our GOAL

Will you do your part?
For God and Country



Shown left to right are: Voan Stone, Sue Collins, Brenda Brewer, Glenda Cobb, Joyce Alexander and Verla Rowe.

Meet Our Newest Members

Members of our new Unionville Unit #535 are shown after receiving their Charter in a presenta-

tion on June 8, 2011 by Division IV President Janice MacLeod.